

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OFA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W

----- 014053

R 180221Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2854

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7272

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET RESCUE OF ROK FISHING VESSEL

SUMMARY: SEOUL PRESS SEPTEMBER 17 CARRIED REPORTS OF A SEPTEMBER 16 RESCUE AT SEA OF 22 ROK FISHERMEN BY A SOVIET MERCHANT SHIP. ROK GOVERNMENT PLANS TO EXPRESS THANKS TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT THROUGH EMBASSY IN TOKYO. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO ROK NAVY, SOVIET MERCHANT FREIGHTER ALEXANDAR TVARDORSKY, REGISTERED OUT OF VLADIVOSTOK PROVIDED ASSISTANCE AT SEA TO A 10-TON ROK FISHING VESSEL WITH A CREW OF 22 ON BOARD WHICH WAS ADRIFT WITH ENGINE TROUBLE AND A DAMAGED SHAFT SOME 84 NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF POHANG. ROK PRESS CARRIED THE STORY ON FRONT PAGE SEPTEMBER 17. THE SOVIET SHIP TOOK THE FISHING VESSEL IN TOW AT 0330 LOCAL SEPTEMBER 16 AND TURNED THE TOW OVER TO A ROK NAVY DESTROYER ESCORT AT 1400 SEPTEMBER 17. THE FISHING VESSEL WAS TOWED INTO POHANG BY THE ROK NAVY AT 1950 SEPTEMBER 17.

2. THE ROK NAVY "EXPRESSED GRATITUDE" BY FLAG AND FLASHING LIGHT SIGNALS AND REPORTED AN "AMICABLE" RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET MERCHANTMAN.

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3. THE ROK FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS THE INCIDENT AS AN ENTIRELY FORTUITOUS ONE. ON ONE PREVIOUS OCCASION IN 1973 A SOVIET SHIP OFFERED ASSISTANCE IN SIMILAR FASHION TO A DISABLED ROK SHIP. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO SEND A NOTE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE RESCUE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN TOKYO. IN THEIR VIEW, SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF THE NOTE WOULD PROVIDE A FURTHER SIGNAL TO THE ROKG OF INTEREST IN SOME DEGREE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, MOFA EAST EUROPE DIVISION CHIEF ADVISED EMBOFF THAT SOVIETS STILL HAVE NOT PROVIDED VISAS FOR SIX-MAN ROK DELEGATION TO WORLD FEDERATION OF UN ASSOCIATIONS MEETING IN MOSCOW OCTOBER 1-6, PROVISION OF THESE VISAS WOULD BE REGARDED BY ROKG AS A FURTHER SIGNAL OF SOVIET INTEREST IN IMPROVING CONTACT WITH SOUTH KOREA.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHING BOATS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, KS, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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